



Acting library director Marla Sturdy reads Dr. Seuss’ “Horton Hatches the Egg” during story time at Kirtland Library. Volunteer readers are needed for the Tuesday morning and Thursday evening children’s story times and for the upcoming Summer Reading Program.

Silly readers needed for children’s library

BY JENNIFER E. WEST
Nucleus staff writer

“My dream volunteer (readers) would have storytelling experience, have their own costumes and props and lots and lots of spare time,” Marla Sturdy wistfully explains. Ms. Sturdy, who is currently wearing a number of hats on the job—aside from her Cat in the Hat chapeau, oversees the children’s library at Kirtland AFB. She needs volunteers interested in reading to children Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings.

While adult readers are preferred, responsible young people above 16 years old will be considered for the 30-minute readings for preschoolers.

“The sillier the better” is Ms. Sturdy’s preference in volunteer readers. The volunteers are encouraged to don funny hats, wear fun costumes or use other creative ways to enhance the storytelling experience for the young listeners.

At a recent morning storytime, Ms. Sturdy concluded her reading of Dr. Seuss’ “Horton Hatches the Egg” with some “action rhymes,” hopping and chanting that tickled one young listener who joined the fun. Readers also may use their creativity along with reading by leading a “parade” among the bookshelves, leading dancing and using other action rhymes. Nearly anything goes within the children’s area to help vol-

unteer readers keep their young listeners’ attention and interest on a story. And, in the future, when doors are connected on the new children’s area, the noise level will be less of a concern than it is now.

On Ms. Sturdy’s storytime wish list for Thursday evening sessions is being able to incorporate a children’s craft. But materials aren’t available now. In her previous civilian job as a librarian, her library had a “Friends of the Library” group that funded a more elaborate storytime.

Although one parent generally brings a young child for the weekly morning storytime, whole families sometimes visit the library during the evening stories. Mom, dad or older siblings may use the computer room or check the bookshelves outside the children’s library.

Ms. Sturdy doesn’t place a time commitment for being a volunteer reader, and volunteers can choose the morning or evenings sessions as fits their schedules. She is hoping to attract multiple volunteers who can step in to read whenever a reader is unable to attend a session, to take charge of the evening readings or to alternate with regular readers. And, readers are also wanted for the Saturday Summer Reading Club program in June for all ages.

To learn more about being a volunteer reader, contact Ms. Sturdy at 846-1071.

Tech. Sgt. Chris Ringland of the 58th Special Operations Wing’s Operations Group reads to his daughter Kaileigh, 3, at the redecorated Kirtland Library.



Children’s library bound to please

In its first year of enhancement, the Kirtland AFB Children’s Library has served infants through high school students with a variety of bound cover and audio books, videos, storytimes, puppet programs and the Summer Reading Program.

The library section, formerly where the computer room is now located, was a tight squeeze in space for activities and with shelves too high for children, children’s librarian Marla Sturdy explained. The new children’s library area is on the southeast corner of the facility. The area is walled to chest-high with windows. Glass doors will soon complete the construction of the room.

The new children’s room was decorated by Ms. Sturdy and the section was developed by all library staff members, using a plan developed by Phillip Quinones, the Library Director for the 377th Services Squadron.

The children’s library offers picture books, easy readers and children’s and young adult fiction and nonfiction and a small and growing reference section, as well as a play table and “animal” chairs for small children. The young adult collection is geared to mid and high school ages.

Meet the Library Staff

- ★ Denise Arial Dorris
Library Director
- ★ Marla Sturdy
Reference Librarian and acting Library Director
- ★ Anuradha Sharma
Circulation Technician
- ★ Susan Reyan
Library Aide
- ★ Pamala Santos
Library Aide



New medical exercise gets trial run at end of month

A car bomb goes off in the BX parking lot at the busiest time of the day. People are having bad physical reactions to the blast. Is it a chemical terror attack? First responders come in to handle the situation, but what happens after that?

These are some of the questions that will be addressed during the CODE SILVER tabletop exercise hosted by the 377th Medical Group, March 30.

Military and civilian members will team up with local, state and federal agencies to walk through the base and community’s capabilities against a chemical or biological attack.

“CODE SILVER is a scenario and input driven biological and chemical terrorism response game,” said Lt. Col. Wade Weisman, Air Force Materiel Command Surgeon General’s Office. “This means participants’ responses dictate the direction of play. As a result, many different outcomes are possible.”

This exercise is unique in other ways.

The exercise is manually executed and non-scripted, allowing for decision-based, open-ended play. Participants will not need to role-play, allowing them to concentrate on their specific jobs and how it benefits the group.

This program focuses mainly on the medical community and examines how they and other organizations handle a crisis beyond where most normal exercises end.

The lessons learned will be used to improve deliberate planning for the military medical treatment facility, Kirtland AFB and community agencies.

Participants will be asked to work together to overcome challenges such as chemical agent detection, emergency response and biological agent antibiotic distribution.

The involvement of off-base agencies will open new doors that will allow for quicker and more deliberate responses. Both sides will learn more about the others’ capabilities and how they can work together for the safety and security of both the base and the surrounding community.

CODE SILVER is an Air Force Surgeon General initiative that will be used at 45 Air Force and Air National Guard bases worldwide by the end of the fiscal year.

CODE SILVER is the product of a contract between the Air Force and L3 Communications.

Contractors work as developers and execute the program. With no inspector general involvement, the exercise is non-graded and will be used to self-identify problems in existing plans and processes.



Photo by Dennis Carlson

Guest speaker

Col. Debra Dubbe Gray was featured guest speaker at the March 5 Women in the Military Tribute Gala. The colonel is the vice commandant of Cadets and vice commander of the 334th Training Wing at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo. The tribute event included the “Proudly She Serves” gala, talks by New Mexico’s U.S. Rep. Heather Wilson and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, as well as a variety of workshops, exhibits and an open panel discussion.

Women’s History Month: Ruth Hanna McCormick Simms

Ruth Hanna was born on March 27, 1880, in Cleveland, Ohio.

She married Joseph McCormick and began pursuing her interest in national Welfare and Reform organizations. She led the Congressional Committee of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and, before World War I, she supported military preparedness.

In 1920, she became a member of the executive committee of the Republican National Committee. After Mr. McCormick’s death in 1925, Ruth Hanna became the first woman to win a statewide election. She met Albert G. Simms, a former New Mexico congressman, while serving in Congress.

They married in 1932 and lived in New Mexico. Mrs. Simms then developed the Sandia Girls School, now part of Kirtland AFB, with assistance from the famous Southwest architect John Gaw Meem.

The school became known for its progressive education and preparing young women for college. It closed in 1942 and Mrs. Simms moved back to Chicago, Ill., where she died in 1944.

Presbyterian Hospital has named a wing after Ruth Hanna due to her dedication to the New Mexico community.

Ruth Hanna McCormick Simms led a path for women in this country to succeed. She used progressive education to shape the lives of the students at the Sandia Girls School.